

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8 and 11-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 11, and 12 have been canceled, claims 13-17 have been amended, and claims 18-26 have been added, leaving claims 13-26 for consideration upon entry of the present amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following amendment and remarks.

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has considered the April 12, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement; however, Applicant also filed an Information Disclosure Statement on March 12, 2002 with the original filing of the application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the PTO 1449 form, indicating that the Examiner has considered those references.

Applicant appreciates that the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter in claims 13, 15, and 16. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 8, 11, and 12 and has rewritten claims 13, 15, and 16 in independent form. The additional claims all depend from the allowable claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that all claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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